

Dear Miss Neumann-

My commentary on science is so specialized that I find it difficult to answer your questionnaire, and I doubt if my own responses would be highly contributory.

Do. you know (my colleague) Prof. Rivers' book "The Opinionmakers" ?

I agree that the news pages should be "impartial" , but it may be difficult to extend this to commentary. I feel that the Post does a remarkable job; but if only in its choice of writers, a certain bias is obvious and inevitable (and unfortunate)/

November 24, 1968

Dear Sir:

As a Washington Semester Student, I am spending a semester at American University, in order to study the processes of the government more directly. The news media play an essential role in the development of the political process and in influencing the decision makers themselves. Inherent in the media's role is the important journalistic ideal that newspapers should give impartial coverage of all news, restricting the attitudes, positions and the partisanship of the editors and owners to the editorial page itself. Implicit in this ideal is that the newspaper's selection and presentation of news interpretation, represented by columnists, should also be impartial. In other words, The Washington Post, as an acclaimed independent paper should not reflect the bias of the newspaper management. This hypothesis has served as the basis for an extensive research project this semester.

Data from this anonymous questionnaire will serve to develop the validity of the project and form the framework from which conclusions may be drawn. The questionnaire is short, simple and anonymous in order to facilitate the ease with which it can be answered. The information solicited through this form is highly important and it is necessary to get a substantial number of replies from which to draw conclusions. I hope you can spare ten minutes for a reply. A stamped, addressed return envelope is enclosed.

Thank you for making a valid contribution to what I consider an exciting educational experience.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Neuman

Carol Neuman

I feel the Post has been very fair with me. It is probably beyond my province to go very far in political commentary. When I do, I expect to run the risk of having my writing scrutinized particularly carefully, and I am not surprised that the Post has not always allocated an unlimited amount of precious space, for which there is such intense competition. Draw your own conclusions from the examples I enclose. But please do keep my own name out of any further remarks you make.

Sincerely

Joshua Lederberg

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